Decline in profits of foreign branches of Banks

†954. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been steep decline in the profits of the foreign branches of the leading banks during the last few years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government propose to wind up the non-profitable branches of the banks keeping in view their heavy losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) There was an increase in profits of overseas operation of Public Sector Banks during 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001. However, net profits of overseas operations declined by 74.5% in the year 2001 -2002. But during the year 2002-03 net profits increased once again registering a growth of 31.74% over 2001-2002.

(b) The major reason for the fall in net profit during the year 2001 - 2002 was due to increase in problem credits resulting in decline in net interest income and consequential additional loan loss provisions.

(c) No such proposal is under consideration of the Govt.

Income tax dues

955. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of income tax due on corporate houses, industrialists and film artists with the detailed list of big defaulters;

(b) the number of taxpayers who are paying income tax in the country; and

(c) whether Government have made assessment of the potential taxpayers who could be brought to the fold of income tax net?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) The Income Tax Department does not maintain separate details of Income Tax dues in respect of categories such as corporate houses, industrialists, film artists, etc.

(b) The number of taxpayers as on 31.3.2003 are 331.49 lakhs.

(c) It is the constant endeavour of the Government to bring more and more people into the fold of Income Tax net. Several measures initiated to widen the tax base include:

(i) Introduction of one-by-six scheme.

(ii) Compulsory quoting of Permanent Account Number in certain high value transactions.

(iii) Carrying out surveys and searches on a selective basis.

(iv) Extending the applicability to TDS provisions to cover various financial activities.

(v) Efforts to educate the taxpayers by holding camps in different areas.

A comprehensive computerization programme has further been undertaken to bring all the 501 Income Tax Offices throughout the country under an All India computerized network. A Tax Information Network (TIN) is also being put in place to ensure that a person carrying out any business activity/financial transaction would fall within the tax net.

Circulation of fake currency notes

956. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that fake currency notes of Rs. 500/- and Rs. 1000/- are being printed in Nepal and are in circulation in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the matter was taken up with the Government of Nepal and if so, the outcome thereof; and